

Annie Lesko <alesko@northamptonma.gov>

Mon, Feb 3, 2020, 1:04 PM

to Tracy, me

FYI

Annie Lesko
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From: **Sarah Ruberti** <ruberti13@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 12:59 PM

Subject: Integrated Math at the High School

To: <jprovost@northampton-k12.us>, <svoss@northampton-k12.us>, Dina Levi <dlevi@northampton-k12.us>, Annie Lesko <alesko@northamptonma.gov>

Hello,

Where can I find the following information about the integrated math curriculum?

- Background on why it was implemented (I am unable to access the archived minutes from 2013/2014 on the website)
- The guiding principals, goals, and, desired outcomes of the curriculum
- The implementation plan
- Post-implementation evaluations/assessment reports. Given that we are in the 4th year of the curriculum, I am interested in seeing the year by year breakdown of how the curriculum meets the goals and how the students have been impacted.

Thank you,

Sarah Ruberti

Annie Thompson <anniethompson@northampton-k12.us>

Tue, Feb 25, 2020, 3:03 PM

to Sarah, bcc: Tracy

Dear Ms. Ruberti,

Attached is the document responsive to your request regarding the integrated math at Northampton Public Schools. I'm including the links to the online curriculum here as well which will give you full access to the curriculum at all grade levels.

<http://www.northamptonschools.org/project/nps-district-curriculum/>
<https://northamptonk12-public.rubiconatlas.org/Atlas/Public/View/Default>

Thank you,
Annie

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Annie Thompson
School Committee Clerk & Assistant To The Superintendent
Northampton Public Schools
(413)587-1327

One attachment • Scanned by Gmail



Sarah Ruberti <ruberti13@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 2, 2020, 9:15
AM

to John, Susan, me

Hi Annie: Thank you for sending the attached and for the other documents you sent. I am still looking for:

- The actual school committee meeting minutes when this change was discussed. I would like to know the data that was provided to support this change as well as the committee's conversation around the implementation so I can better understand how this change came about.
- The actual implementation plan that was developed and the goals and evaluation plans, including the data that would be evaluated. I assume that once this decision was made, a plan was developed that outlined all of this. Is this the "Development of the new district improvement plan?"

Based on the powerpoint you sent, can you please also send the "Publication of Entry Findings, the "report of root causes" and the "Development of the new district improvement plan."

Superintendent Provost: Can you please clarify/confirm the following:

Question: "How will you measure whether the Northampton Public School District is successfully helping students to acquire new skills and knowledge? Will you ask the students and the teachers if they feel that there is sufficient rigor, challenge and support for students who are capable of performing above grade level?"

Answer: "Currently negotiating contract language for student feedback." **Please clarify if, when and how you obtain student, teacher and parent feedback.**

Question: " What specific success metrics are in place to measure the implementation and effectiveness of differentiated instruction in Northampton? How and how often is this reviewed?"

Answer: From the powerpoint, it appears you are measuring how well the IM curriculum is working by how many students are on track to take calculus by grade 11. **Is this is the only hard metric we are looking at to determine the implementation and effectiveness of the differentiated instruction or are there other hard data points? And if so, how and how often is this reviewed (this is not answered on the powerpoint):**

For the walkthrough data:

- **Who were the "observers?" (more specific than administrators and " data team members" - are the data team members employees of the district?)**
- **Observers spent 20 minutes (or less) observing each classroom over the course of 2 days?**
- **How many walkthroughs have been conducted since 2015?**

Question: How and when will the decision be made, if it is not working, to return to accelerated classes (as other top performing districts continue to do so)?

Answer: **Unclear from the powerpoint. Please clarify.**

Professional Development: I assume all existing teachers received the 3 days of DI workshops - **do all NEW teachers receive this training before stepping into the classroom?**

Question" "How will professional development effectiveness be measured?"

Answer: **We are measuring effectiveness by if faculty were "satisfied" with their professional development workshop?**

Question: "What is being done to ensure that all teachers are effectively supporting and challenging students in all classes"

Answer: **The powerpoint provides an overview of what teachers are expected to be doing...but where is the data that shows this is actually happening?** Given that my student spent 15 minutes of EVERY math class actually doing math and the remainder of the class playing cards with her group...and still managed to get an A, leads me to believe that they aren't measures in place to ensure that all student needs are being met.

Superintendent Provost: Based on a document that Annie sent, it appears that neither you nor the school committee planned to evaluate this change to our curriculum and teaching practices to see if it is working, which is frankly shocking (well, shocking in my line of work) - unless there is something in the implementation plan? Based on the negative experiences both my children have had over the past few years and continue to have in the Northampton schools (and not just with IM), I would like to become better informed - so I am curious - is this standard practice in our district? To make major changes and not do formal assessments to ensure that the changes that were implemented have been implemented correctly (and continue to be practiced) and that these changes are effectively meeting the needs of our students? Is this the same for the changes made to the classroom integration model?

"Dr. Provost reported that teachers from the math department feel that they are under a great deal of scrutiny, that there is nothing in the public record stating that a five-year study would be made regarding the math curriculum, but that there is a current perception in the community that a five-year study was promised. In response to that Dr. Provost identified funds that would address those concerns, but that he thinks what is most relevant is to be consistent with best practices"

Thank you,

Sarah



Annie Thompson <anniethompson@northampton-k12.us>

Tue, Mar 3, 2020, 10:30 AM

to Sarah, John, Susan, bcc: Lori, bcc: Rachel

Hi Sarah,

The three resources you requested are all available on the District website. Below are links:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bz44jfYV6TmTV0J1akM3LUZXWlk/view>

<https://sites.google.com/a/northampton-k12.us/nps/district-calendar/superintendentprovostsrootcauseanalysisdocument>

<https://sites.google.com/a/northampton-k12.us/nps/district-calendar/superintendentprovostsentryplanfindings>

Thank you,
Annie